DESIGNER'S CORNER

How to Choose the Right Couch for Your Space

You may want to choose your couch first and design around it, the pros say

Each week, Mansion Global tackles a topic with an elite group of designers from around the world who work on luxury properties. This week we look at how to find the right couch for your room's design aesthetics and needs.

More than just necessary seating, a sofa is arguably the most important element in a room. It's an anchor for all other objects, said Ryan Schultz, co-founder of Medley, an eco-friendly furniture company based in Los Angeles. "I've seen rooms where the sofa is more neutral in color and style and monochromatically plays well with other furniture. I've also seen bold, bright sofas there to make a point, and everything else is supporting. Being the most-used piece in the room, it's generally easier to start with the sofa and build from there," Mr. Schultz said.

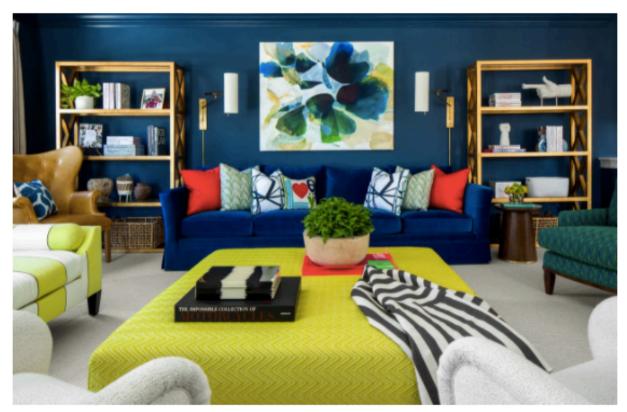For advice on seating with style, follow these tips from the pros.

Decide on Style

"The material, shape, size and makeup of the sofa are very important. Some people want to sink into their sofa and others want a firmer feel. Know the depth that you need to be comfortable.

"It should either vibe with your home's style or contrast it. If you live in a historic Victorian home with original moldings and tall ceilings, a sleek couch can feel like a piece of art. Conversely, if you live in a contemporary space with minimal moldings and history, curves and extra stuffing will feel inviting.

"If the sofa has tufting on the back or lots of detail, a solid fabric can really be beautiful and enhance the silhouette. If the sofa is lacking character or personality, a wild pattern can change the piece and the space."

— Liz Caan, a Boston Massachusetts-based interior designer

A blue-velvet sofa furthers the funky feel to an eclectic living room designed by Liz Caan.

Eric Roth Photography